A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 21. 1710.

I Have been upon the Affair of the Mobb; and tho' you may think me long, Gentlemen, I cannot but tell you, I shall be yet longer: The Project was long in Brooding; and pray give me leave to give you a brief Original of this late Monstrous Birth.

FACTION, an undescrib'd Monster, well-plac'd among the Non-Naturals of the State—Strouling about the Nation, starving and abandon'd, *cast off* even by Popery her self—*weary'd* with the Drudgery of Jacobitism, for both which she had long wrought without Wages, and resolved to take up with any thing she could meet with Uglier than her self, had ply'd like a Street-Harlot for some Body to prostitute her deform'd Carkass to: *But in vain*, she had formerly laid claim to the Whiggs, and many a Slander they have lain under, for being but seen in her Company——But these resolved at once to expose her, and clear themselves—Had recourse to Foreign Aid, and bringing over one King *REVOLUTION* to be their Head, they Crown'd him by the Title of *William The Glorious*——And Establishing his dear Favourite *CONSTITUTION*. From her has been produc'd by a kind of *Self-Generation*, that bright and most beautiful thing call'd *Legal Governments*. To this, the Whiggs having a natural Propensity, both by Principle and Interest, are by the same Force of Nature constantly Loyal, and when they cease to be so, they must cease to be Whiggs, that is, *True British Protestants*.

Thi

This fatal Blow brought the Monſter *Faction* to the utmoſt Deſpair, and wandring about, as above, abandon'd and diſconſolate, ſhe met with a Midnight Child of Hell, call'd a *High-Flyer*; Her Condition being, as I ſaid before, Deſperate, and the darkneſs of the Night hiding his more ſhapeleſs, diſproportion'd and unnatural Figure from her——Concluding he muſt be the Devil, if he was worſe than her ſelf, ſhe willingly fell in with him, and this League in the Dark was ſoon made up between them.

Authors ſay, That in the Morning-light, when ſhe ſaw a Creature ſo *Unlick'd*, ſo without Shape, *ſine* Head, *ſine* Tail, *ſine* Hope, *ſine* Proſpect; ſhe was for leaving him again, as being ſurpriz'd to ſee a thing ten times more *Devil-like* than her ſelf;——But whether ſhe lik'd her Cully, it is evident he lik'd his *Filt*, and ſhe at preſent not knowing how to mend her ſelf, ſtay'd with him; till Time diſcovering them better to one another, they ſoon found ſuch Sympathy, ſuch Sameneſs of Deſign, ſuch Harmony in Miſchief, ſuch perfect Uniſon in Hypocriſie, and ſuch a Concurrence of all the moſt exquiſite Qualifications, neceſſary to a compleat Devil, that they made a full Conjunction of their incarnate Subſtance,——and became Incorporate into one another.——

Hence *High-Flying* and *Faction* are now become Identical in Parts, Synonimous in Terms, and Undividable in Intereſt. To be a *High-Flyer*, is to be Factious by Nature; to be *Factious*, is to be a High-Flyer by Conſequence, and to ſay a Factious High-Flyer, is a Tautology in Speech, and only repeats the ſame thing; to ſay a High-Flyer is Factious, is to ſay nothing, 'tis to ſay a *High-Flyer* is a *High-Flyer*, and they are no more like one another at all, for they are the very ſame Numerically and Eſſentially.

This Conglutinated, Encorporated, Nameleſs Muſk of Miſchief, is as particular in its Qualities, as it is in its Shape. It has this peculiar, 'tis always a Subject, yet always diſputing its Sovereign,—— It has all the Snakes of *Old Europe* crawling about its Head, but no Teeth to bite; it breaths Fire, but that Fire is an *Ignis Fatuus*, that has no Heat, and cannot burn—It has dreadful Paws to look at, when you ſee it at a diſtance, but when you look nearer there are no Talons ——as it is diſproportion'd in Shapes, ſo 'tis inconſiſtent, and incoherent in Parts; it has a terrible Aſpect, but no Heart; it threatens Death, but has no Hands; it fawns like a Monkey, but cannot Smile, yet has it all imaginable Aid to Miſchief, from its kindred to the Devil,——In Publick it takes Oaths to the Government, and Curſes that Government it ſwears to; it Abjures the Pretender, and then drinks his Health upon its Knees; it can ſtir up Rebellion, and preach Non-Reſiſtance; it goes cloath'd in the Robes of the Church, but Damns all her Biſhops for Presbyterians——It will call God to Witneſs in the moſt ſolemn Manner, that it is for Tenderneſs to Conſcientious Diſſenters; yet it will tell you from the Pulpit, That *whoever Diſſents from the Church, is a Traytor to the State.* It will proteſt and appeal to GOD that ſearches the Heart, that he is for the Act of Exemption, (Toleration) of Diſſenters from Penal Laws, yet he leaves them with the Devil and his Angel —— It will flatter the QUEEN in the moſt fulſome Manner, in long ſtudied Harrangues, and yet unhinge that very Conſtitution that has Crown'd Her.

From this Incorporated Hermaphodite, by Unnatural, and yet *as to Cauſes*, moſt neceſſary Generation, a numerous Offſpring has proceeded; begotten and born of its ſelf, and M'dwif'd into the World by the helliſh Warmth of its own fermented Putrefaction: And not to trouble you with the Names of the Children and Grand-Children of this ſtrange new-faſhion'd Creature, ſome of which are Monſtrous like the Parent, I muſt acquaint you, that the Monſter teeming lately upon the Occaſion of Dr. *Sacheverel*'s Diſaſter, Miſcarried——and brought forth an *Embrio* conceiv'd by halves, born in haſt, that juſt liv'd to Hiſs and Grin, to denote its true Original, and then Dy'd.

Had

Had the half-born Monſter liv'd, and been full grown; had it come to the Birth in its full Time and Maturity, it would have been call'd *HYDRA*, a Name of Multitude—all the imperfect, unfiniſh'd Parts of it being viſible; ſuch as its Thouſands Heads, and ten Thouſand Horns; its Tail which throws Dirt and Darts, and its Teeth Poyſonous: It diſcover'd, that if it had liv'd, its Food would have been Fleſh and its Drink Blood, its Delight Rapin, and its Ambition Univerſal Confuſion—— But it liv'd, thanks be to Heaven —— *not to* Dr. *Sacheverell*—— but a few Hours; and from its ſuddain Appearance and early Death, was called *MOBB*, after the ancient Original Name of the Family.

I could have given you a larger Geneao: logy of its Anceſtors—— for there have been *Mobbs* born into the World before. But as ſomething more went to the Compoſition of this Monſter, than was ever requir'd in the uſual Generation of the like Species, ſo it ſeem'd to me only neceſſary to acquaint you, how ſuch a ſtrange Production came to be juſt now brought forth more particularly, than at any time before; it being in a Reign, and under a Conſtitution, that left the leaſt Room for any ſuch unnatural Production of any this Nation has been under, ſince it had a Name—and this, I ſuppoſed, muſt naturally lead People to enquire after its helliſh Original.

MISCELLANEA.

FRom our Office lately Erected, for Licenſing ſuch Evils in the Nation, as cannot otherwiſe be redreſſed.

Sundry People have apply'd themſelves to the Office, for Licenſes to carry on ſome particular Methods in Commerce, not in themſelves very allowable, and we are now in Treaty with them ——and hope it may in a ſhort Time be brought to a Concluſion.

The *S. P. Q. L.* have ſent a Deputation to the Office, to obtain a Licenſe for picking Pockets by colour of Law, under the Modern Title of *going a Birding*.

The Society have had ſeveral Meetings with them about it, and no Concluſion has yet been made: But 'tis hoped it may be amicably finiſh'd againſt next *Midſummer-day*; ſo that the City may not be at any Loſs as to Sheriffs, and yet a decent Sum of Money be catch'd *where it is to be had*, for the Uſe and Behoof of the Honourable, Right Honourable, Worſhipful, *&c.*

The *Mine-Adventure* Company having been in ſome needful Circumſtances, relating to fine Management, *&c.* a certain Gentleman has been with the Society ſeveral times, for ſome of their new Faſhioned Authority.

The firſt Demand was ſo Groſs, the Society could not tell what to think of it; for the Perſon ſent Demands, a Plenipotentiary Authority, to turn real Lead into imaginary Silver; to form Airy Funds, make Settlements and Aſſurances, and borrow Money on them, from Widows, Orphans, and Innocent, but Credulous Perſons; and then Cauſe thoſe Funds, Settlements and Aſſurances to paſs a fiery Tryal, Refining, Calcining, and then Evaporating them, till neither the Loan, the Fund, the Settlement, or the Aſſurance can be heard of any more,

He enquir'd alſo, if Licenſes might be had for ſome other little Frauds; ſuch as forging Writings, cancelling Securities, counterfeiting Defences, For-ſwearing and Back-ſwearing——— but the Society not having come to a full Length, could not treat upon theſe Heads.

Beſides, they were not willing to enter immediately upon thoſe Articles, till the Parliament was up; ſince thoſe things having been laid before the Houſe, there is ſome hope, that the Commons may ſettle the Rates of theſe and other Practices of the Worſhipful Company, to the general Satisfaction.

Some

Some Petitions have been lodg'd from Commissioners of Bankrupts, for Licenſe with a *non Obſtante* to a late Act of Parliament, to Confederate with Creditors, to Devour the Bankrupts Effects, by a modern Method, equal to all the ancient Uſages of that worthy Society.

A Petition from ſome of the Reverend Clergy of the Sect of the *Sacheverellites*, That they may have Liberty to call God to Witneſs for their Sincere Adherence to the Queen and Revolution, notwithſtanding their now and then Drinking the Pretenders Health on their Knees.

A Petition alſo of a Noble Peer, That he may take out a Licenſe to talk Unintelligibly, when ever he Pleaſes, in order more effectually to reconcile *Non Reſiſtance*, and the late *Revolution*.

There have ſeveral Petitions been preſented from our *Exchange-Alley* Muſqueteers, moving, That they may have a Licenſe to reſtrain the laudable Employment of Stock-Jobbing, on certain ſet Days, when their other Affair calls them to Muſter for the Guard of Her Majeſty's Perſon in the Park.

It cannot be expected, Gentlemen, that all this Buſineſs can be diſpatch'd in ſo little Time, and in the Infancy of our Society; but as Leiſure permits, the Society will not fail to give them all Satisfaction.

ADVERTISEMENT

WHereas great Induſtry has been us'd to ſuppreſs this Paper, by ſeveral Members of a Party, to whom it is particularly Grievous to hear too much Truth ——— By whoſe Art the Publication of it has ſo far been ſtop'd, that none have been to be had, either of the Hawkers, or Shops where other ſuch Papers are ſold.

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